

Eight sites become ‘shovel ready’

Status helps companies identify locations for rapid development

INDIANAPOLIS (February 21, 2007) — Eight new sites across Indiana earned the title of ‘shovel ready’ today, paving the way for companies to quickly locate their businesses on a property that is ready for development.

The title is the namesake of the state’s ‘Shovel Ready’ program that identifies sites which have undergone extensive title work, proof of ownership, legal and environmental review and qualify for expedited permitting with state regulatory agencies.

“With more and more companies looking for sites where they can have a shovel in the ground as quickly as possible, this program gives Indiana an advantage when it comes to competing with other states for new investments and new jobs,” said Nathan Feltman, Secretary of Commerce and chief executive officer of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation. “This is another vital tool in our economic development toolbox that will help give Indiana the edge when attracting new and promising investment to the state.”

The eight new sites join the twelve others certified during the state’s pilot program of Shovel Ready in 2006. Designed to lower the cost of site development, improve efficiency of state permitting and enhance the marketability of sites statewide, the program has already begun to achieve success, said Brad Moore, the Shovel-Ready project manager for the Indiana Economic Development Corporation

“Timing is essential in any business decision and this program helps create a more business-friendly environment,” Moore said.

Passed in the 2005 legislative session as part of Governor Daniels' jobs agenda, Shovel Ready sites are certified by the Fast Access Site Team (FASTeam), which consists of representatives from the Indiana Economic Development Corporation, Governor's Office, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Indiana Department of Transportation, Indiana State Department of Health, Indiana State Department of Agriculture and the Indiana State Department of Homeland Security.

Certified sites have been eligible for matching grants to assist with eligible costs associated with applying for the Shovel Ready program. These sites are listed on the Indiana Economic Development Corporation's Site and Building Database at http://www.in.gov/iedc/site/indiana_properties.html.

This online resource allows site selection consultants and businesses to research available commercial and industrial properties that are available for quick development and investment.

The most recent Shovel Ready sites receiving certification are:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Site Name</u>	<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Contacts</u>
Anderson (Madison County)	Scatterfield Business Park	City of Anderson Community Development	Katherine Goar 765-648-6176
Franklin (Johnson County)	Franklin Tech Park	Johnson County Development Corporation	Cheryl Morphew 317-736-4300
Ligonier (Noble County)	Ligonier Industrial Park	Ligonier Industrial Development Corporation	Wayne Fox 260-894-3548
Ossian (Wells County)	OD, Inc.	Ossian Development Corporation	Gene Donaghy 260-622-7313
Rushville (Rush County)	Rush County North Industrial Park	Rush County Economic Development Corporation	Greg Griffin 765-938-3238
South Bend (St. Joseph County)	Portage Prairie	Project Future	Patrick McMahon 800-228-8086
Switzerland County	Markland Business Park	Switzerland County Economic Development Corporation	Jon Bond 812-427-9100
Whitley County	Park 30 Business Center	Whitley County Economic Development Corporation	Dorinda Heiden 260-244-5506

The twelve Shovel Ready sites certified in 2006 include sites located in Columbus, Connersville, Fort Wayne, Greencastle, Greensburg, Lafayette, Montpelier, Boone County, Harrison County, Miami County, Vanderburgh County and Scott County.

To learn more about the Shovel Ready Program, visit the Indiana Economic Development Corporation website at www.iedc.in.gov or contact Brad Moore at 317/233-6796, bmoore@iedc.in.gov.

About IEDC

As a result of legislation passed by the Indiana General Assembly in 2005, the Indiana Economic Development Corporation has replaced the Department of Commerce as the premier entity charged with state economic development. The IEDC has a 12-member board chaired by Governor Mitch Daniels. Indiana Secretary of Commerce Nathan Feltman is also president of the IEDC. For more information about IEDC, visit www.iedc.IN.gov.

-30-

Media Contact: Mitch Frazier – 317.232.8873 or MFrazier@iedc.in.gov